

Public Service Recognition

National Public Service Recognition Week is May 3-9, 2004. Governor Sanford has issued a proclamation declaring May 5, 2004, **State Employee Recognition Day** in South Carolina. The following State agencies will offer special discounts on May 5, 2004:

- Department of Natural Resources - 15% discount to state employees on all gift items. Visit on-line at www.scwildlife.com.
- Department of Parks Recreation & Tourism - 10% discount to state employees on all gift items at the State House and the Governor's Mansion.
- Cotton Mill & Exchange - 10% discount to state employees on all gift items at the SC State Museum. Visit on-line at www.museum.state.sc.us.

Benefits

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE PROGRAM -----

If you need to find whether a doctor, pharmacy or hospital is a covered provider by your health plan, you may access the list at www.eip.state.sc.us/category/active/directories.htm. You may complete insurance claim forms at www.eip.state.sc.us/category/active/forms.htm.

MONEYPLUS FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS -----

You may complete flexible spending account reimbursement forms on the website at www.eip.state.sc.us/category/active/forms.htm.

PREVENTION PARTNERS -----

Did you know the Employee Insurance Program's Prevention Partners provides activities, programs and services that can help you stay healthy? They sponsor sessions on managing stress, staying active, managing chronic disease and smoking cessation programs. Find out more about what they can do for you at www.eip.state.sc.us/prevention/default.htm.

Financial Information

CREDIT UNION -----

Do you know about the SC State Credit Union's (SCU) loan programs? SCU offers a variety of loan options that include all of the following loan types: personal, mortgage, mobile home, home equity and home improvement loans. Find out more about these and other loan programs, and access a loan calculator that will calculate what your monthly payments will be at the following website - www.scscu.com.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS -----

Do you have a child getting ready to go to college? Are you interested in going back to school? You can get valuable information about college financial aid programs and how to apply by visiting the Commission on Higher Education's Financial Assistance webpage. Log onto the following website - www.che400.state.sc.us/web/Student/Financial%20Assistance/Financial%20Assist%20Home.htm.

HOUSING MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE -----

The SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority administers various programs that make housing affordable for qualified individuals and families. Find out more about these programs at the following website address - www.sha.state.sc.us/Programs/programs.html.

Upcoming Holidays

Monday, May 10th
Confederate Memorial Day

Monday, May 31st
National Memorial Day

Monday, July 5th
Independence Day

Monday, September 6th
Labor Day

Resources

STATE LIBRARY -----

Do you have a library card for the South Carolina State Library to check out library materials? The Library has numerous collections to include the General, the South Carolina, Government Publications, Grants Research, South Carolina Fiction and Audiovisual. Visit their website at www.state.sc.us/scsl/index.html.

STATE MUSEUM -----

Did you know that you can become a friend of the State Museum and receive free year-round admission to the Museum as well as a 10% member discount at the Museum Store? Visit their website at www.museum.state.sc.us to see a listing of upcoming exhibits and collections.

STATE PHONE DIRECTORY -----

Did you know you can find the current State Phone Directory on South Carolina's home website at www.state.sc.us/phone/? To print a phone directory go to the quick links on the MySCGov home page at www.myscgov.com.

Retirement Information

SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEMS -----

If you would like to calculate an estimate of your retirement benefits, you may access the Retirement Systems website at www.scrs.state.sc.us/plans.html. You can also calculate an estimate of service purchase costs.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION -----

Did you know that South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program has a Financial Resource Center to assist in planning and investing for retirement? They can also assist in options for paying for college, paying taxes and mortgages. Visit the website at <http://scrs.csplans.com/portal/Login.jsp> for more information.